

Featuring



Webcast and Discussion

**W.E.B. Du Bois Library
University of Massachusetts**

**Sponsored by
The University Libraries &
The Graduate School**

Sir Richard Roberts, Ph.D., F.R.S. Joint winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1993 for discovering split genes and RNA splicing, one of 26 Nobel Prize- winners to sign the Open Letter to U.S. Congress in support of taxpayer access to publicly funded research



Philip E. Bourne is the Founding Editor-in-Chief of *PLoS (Public Library of Science) Computational Biology*. He is Professor in the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at UC-San Diego, Associate Director of the RCSB Protein Data Bank, Senior Advisor to the San Diego Supercomputer Center, Adjunct Professor at the Burnham Institute, and Co-Founder of SciVee.



Charles M. Schweik, “open culture” advocate and Associate Professor, Department of Natural Resources Conservation and the Center for Public Policy and Administration at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst



Chris Boulton, PhD candidate, Department of Communication at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst



What is Open Access?

Open Access...

- encourages the **unrestricted sharing** of research results with everyone, everywhere, **for the advancement and enjoyment of science and society**
- is the principle that publicly funded research should be **freely accessible** online, immediately after publication
- can **stimulate research** by virtually eliminating publication waiting periods and costly subscription fees to journals
- **breaks down old notions** of authority and relevance and replaces them with an **equally rigorous**, but **more egalitarian model of scholarly communication**



Open Access Benefits the Community

"Patient advocates are amongst the many groups actively campaigning for Open Access. As a mother of two children with a rare genetic disease, I discovered first hand how difficult it is to get access to research. Open Access helps me advocate better for my family."

Sharon Terry ►
President & CEO
Genetic Alliance
Washington, DC



- Open access allows free access to materials that would usually otherwise require expensive subscriptions

- Individuals can gain timely access to information that otherwise would not necessarily reach the public quickly

- Open access also means that individuals can have easier access to more obscure materials, sooner



"As a middle school science teacher, I do not have the funds to subscribe to the traditional science journals. The availability of research papers will benefit the future of scientific research by providing motivation and stimulation for millions of fledgling scientists."

Barbara Stebbins ▲
Science Teacher, Black Pine Circle School (Berkeley, CA)

Open Access Benefits Students

"The critical aspect of Open Access for me is that increased discoverability and browseability will lead to greater efficiency of conducting research. Any savings in efficiency translate quite directly into savings for taxpayers and time savings for researchers. That ultimately means more discoveries, sooner, for less money."

André Brown ►
Ph.D. Student
University of Pennsylvania

Student



Librarian



"Universities, who support and produce research, can't keep up with inflating journal prices and are forced to cut subscriptions. With Open Access, instead of cutting off access to information to professors and students, we are able to provide that knowledge without increasing the college's costs."

◀ Diane J. Graves
University Librarian
Trinity University (Texas)

- Open Access digital repositories can allow students to build their own online portfolios or create peer-reviewed journals
- Most Open Access repositories and journals are searchable from fewer websites, making research easier and less time-consuming
- Decreased journal and publishing costs could mean less expensive university fees for students

Open Access Benefits Researchers and Authors

"Open Access helps scientists make the discoveries we need to improve health, provides the opportunity for their work to be more easily read and cited, enables integration of research with other resources, helps funding bodies evaluate the research they have funded, and ensures that the digital record of medicine can be preserved."

Mark Walport ▶
Director of the Wellcome Trust
London, UK



**Physician
Scientist**



"I'm a primary care clinician. I want to take care of my patients using the best available research evidence, which happens to be published almost exclusively in medical journals. Prior to Open Access, this research was often locked behind subscription barriers. With Open Access, I can get easier, wider access to the research evidence that I need to do the best for my patients."

◀ *Ida Sim, M.D., Ph.D.*
Associate Professor
University of California, San Francisco

- Open Access digital repositories can allow faculty and researchers to build their own online portfolios/CVs or create peer-reviewed journals
- Open Access to your material can help increase citations and visibility of your work
- Open Access repositories help defend authors' copyright, a right that most authors unknowingly have to sign away upon publication in most for-profit journals

Open Access Is Also Concerned With...

- Other “**free culture**” or “**open culture**” initiatives, such as:
 - **Alternatives to DRM** (digital rights management) **technologies**
 - **Open-source software**
 - **Anti-RIAA and MPAA activism**
- **Fair Use advocacy**
- **Copyright reform**
- **Net neutrality**



Open Access Resources

- Open Access Day
 - OAD: <http://openaccessday.org>
 - Find out more information on Open Access issues and groups
- Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition
 - SPARC: <http://www.arl.org/sparc/>
 - “an international alliance of academic and research libraries working to correct imbalances in the scholarly publishing system”
 - Use their website to find out more about your rights as an author
- Public Library of Science
 - PLoS: <http://www.plos.org/>
 - “a nonprofit organization of scientists and physicians committed to making the world's scientific and medical literature a freely available public resource”
- Students for Free Culture
 - SFC: <http://freeculture.org/>
 - “an international chapter-based student organization that promotes the public interest in intellectual property and information & communications technology policy”

